

Engineering News

EBU and SMPTE in Joint Endeavor to Standardize the Exchange of Television Program Material

The SMPTE and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) have established a joint task force designed to formulate a definitive list of user requirements that will enable broadcasters to exchange audio, video, and associated data easily and reliably among different systems. The number of ways of exchanging data currently available to those in all facets of the motion imaging industry, especially now with the increasing amount of computer-based equipment being used for television production, have caused much concern and frustration at all levels, from informal user meetings to the International Telecommunication Union.

The EBU and SMPTE have no wish to limit the variety of products that are available. However, a standard method to move television signals within the production chain would provide and encourage a variety of solutions without putting limits on innovation in product design.

Areas where a single option, or at least transparent gateways between different options, are of vital importance to users have been identified:

- compression algorithms
- multiplexing of components
- file formats
- interfaces

The task force will meet on an aggressive schedule to have a report completed by April 1997. The first meeting of the task force will be November 3, 1996, in Geneva, Switzerland, immediately preceding the EBU Workshop "Making the BRR Connections." Meetings will then alternate between Geneva and New York. The EBU and SMPTE invite all interested parties active in these areas to participate.

For further information, contact Director of Engineering Carl Girod, SMPTE, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607,

Tel: (914) 761-1100,

Fax: (914) 761-3115,

E-mail: cgirod@smpte.org; or

Maurizio Ardito, RAI,

Tel: +39 11 810 31 79,

E-mail: ardito@crrai.it.

Engineering Meeting Schedule

December

2 Mon.	WG on Monitoring and Diagnostics S17.36 (A. Colpa)	Hewlett-Packard Santa Clara, Calif.
2 Mon.	WG on Fiber Optic Camera Cable S17.44 (F. Della Iacono)	Hewlett-Packard
2 Mon.	WG on Ref. Signals for Digital Areas S17.46 (G. Roe)	Hewlett-Packard
2 Mon.	WG on Ancillary Data S17.10 (J. Safar)	Hewlett-Packard
3 Tues.	Committee on Signal Technology S17 (W. Miller)	Hewlett-Packard
3 Tues.	Audio Subgroups TBA	Hewlett-Packard
3 Tues.	Committee on Audio Technology A12 (R. Uhlig)	Hewlett-Packard
4 Wed.	WG on Packetized TV Interconnection PT20.04 (R. Wilson)	Hewlett-Packard
4 Wed.	WG on Switching and Synchronization PT20.02 (P. Symes)	Hewlett-Packard
4 Wed.	WG on TV Compression Systems PT20.03 (N. Neubert)	Hewlett-Packard
5 Thurs.	WG on Video Index PT20.05 (M. Everett)	Hewlett-Packard
5 Thurs.	WG on Digital Control P18.10 (P. Jarrett)	Hewlett-Packard
5 Thurs.	WG on Headers and Descriptors PT20.01 (B. Lechner)	Hewlett-Packard
5 Thurs.	Committee on Packetized Technology PT20 (D. Fibush)	Hewlett-Packard
5 Thurs.	WG on Time and Control Code P18.25 (S. Scott)	Hewlett-Packard
5 Thurs.	WG on Editing Procedures P18.27 (O. Morgan)	Hewlett-Packard
5 Thurs.	WG on Subjective Test Materials P18.45 (P. Livingston)	Hewlett-Packard
6 Fri.	WG on Telecine Practices M21.18 (P. Chapman)	Hewlett-Packard
6 Fri.	Committee on Production Technology P18 (P. Livingston)	Hewlett-Packard
6 Fri.	WG on Authoring and Content M21.21 (Stumpf/Tully)	Hewlett-Packard
6 Fri.	WG on Closed Captioning and Subtitles M21.22 (B. Potkin)	Hewlett-Packard
6 Fri.	Committee on Multimedia Technology M21 (G. Shutz)	Hewlett-Packard
9 Mon.	WG on Tape Archiving V16.07 (E. Zwaneveld)	Hewlett-Packard
9 Mon.	WG on User Auto Storage/Retrieval V16.09 (J. Heitmann)	Hewlett-Packard
9 Mon.	WG on TV Recording Applications V16.03 (H. Mahler)	Hewlett-Packard
10 Tues.	WG on Compressed Format (D-7) V16.08 (K. Sadashige)	Hewlett-Packard
10 Tues.	Committee on TV Record/Repro Technology V16 (K. Sadashige)	Hewlett-Packard
11 Wed.	AHG on Audio Production/Post Programming A12.68 (M. Strong)	Hewlett-Packard